

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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BUILDING CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

+ + + + +

MEETING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2004

+ + + + +

The above-entitled Meeting convened in Room 220 South, 441 4th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20001, pursuant to notice, at 10:00 a.m., Marc Fetterman, Chairman, presiding.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

MARC FETTERMAN, Chairman, AIA/DC
 BYRON BLACK, WBC
 COLLIN BURRELL, DOH
 LESTER CLEMONS, NTA
 HOWARD EBENSTEIN, DCEO
 HOWARD GIBBS, PEPCO
 MILES HABER, M-NCBIA
 ARMANDO LOURENCO, AFAA
 JAMES LOWERY, IUEC
 SAMANTHA McASKILL, ASID
 GAIL MONTPLAISIR, AU
 SHAUN PHARR, AOBA
 JIM SHABELSKI, DCWASA
 NANCY SKINKLE, DCCHC
 JOHN STOVALL, M-NCBIA
 SCOTT VANDAME, AFAA
 JOHN WALL, DC/CSI

ALSO PRESENT:

SHARON SCHELLIN, Office of Zoning

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

10:22 a.m.

MR. FETTERMAN: Good morning, everyone.

For the record, my name is Mark Fetterman. I'm the Acting Vice Chair of the Building Code Advisory Committee, and we are having our regular monthly meeting today, June 16th. There is an agenda that's been handed out, and attached to the agenda are proposed bylaws. Does anyone have anything they would like to add to the agenda before we start going through it? We can certainly also address items at the end of the agenda.

Seeing none, let's go through it in this order, if that's okay with everyone. But I do want to add to the beginning a bit of sad news and some wonderful news. The sad news, as many of you know, Jerrily Kress' husband passed away a couple of weeks ago, and they had had a long and wonderful relationship. And Jerrily is taking some time off to adjust to all this and has committed to several of us her desire to get back into work as soon as she can.

A second item of good news is that Sara

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1 Bardin, who is helping us as Jerrily's assistant for
2 so long on this subcommittee, had her baby daughter,
3 Jacqueline, and they're doing great. And, in fact, it
4 was wonderful. At Jerrily's husband's service, Sara
5 brought her new daughter to the service.

6 With that, Sharon Schellin, who is hiding
7 behind the column here and has been helping us so much
8 while Sara has been out, has been in touch with the
9 boards and commissions regarding our reappointment as
10 BCAC members. And we are told that it is still going
11 to happen, and that's about all the news we have under
12 Item A, "Reappointment of BCAC Members."

13 So it's a bit of a complication for me,
14 but what I was trying to wait for this morning were
15 nine people, which our bylaws ask that we have at a
16 meeting to have a regularly-scheduled meeting. But
17 because the many new dedicated members, several of
18 whom are here today, as you've been at each of our
19 meetings, are not yet sworn in, and I've got to count
20 the nine from the group of old-timers. So we are at
21 that point, and I apologize for waiting 20 minutes to
22 start.

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1 Yes, Howard? I'm not a Roberts Rules of
2 Order person to know, but I would defer to others.

3 Item B status is very simple. These are
4 items that Denzil Noble's office has responsibility
5 for proceeding with, and, with the absence of anyone
6 from BLRA today, I will write a letter to Denzil and
7 ask him to update us on these items.

8 I do want to thank publicly the people
9 from the elevator group for writing a letter to
10 Jerrily asking about the last item under B, the last
11 bullet, the July 31st, 2004 deadline to complete
12 elevator retrofits. When that letter was forwarded to
13 me, due to Jerrily's bereavement, I wrote a letter to
14 Denzil and attached your subcommittee's letter and
15 asked for a response. I've heard nothing.

16 I also did a little investigation, as your
17 group probably had already done, and went to the BLRA
18 web site, which has a ?- excuse me while I fumble for
19 a second. It has a page, it has a lead page for the
20 Building and Land Regulation Administration, as many
21 of you may know. And underneath this lead page is
22 special announcements as one of the seven bullets that

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1 you can click on, and the only item in the special
2 announcement is a letter from Denzil to Jim Upshaw
3 about the, saying that the July 31st elevator retrofit
4 is still active. So I, again, very much appreciate
5 your group bringing this to our attention, and I will
6 probably, since the e-mail hasn't elicited a response,
7 actually write another letter for that.

8 Did you have something to add? I pulled
9 that off the web site this morning.

10 MR. LOURENCO: Armando Lourenco. That
11 letter is the one that was posted when the July 2004
12 deadline was established. It's my understanding it's
13 stale, I guess, outdated. And it's my understanding
14 that we have already made a decision to at least
15 postpone that to some later date in 2005. They
16 haven't come out with a specific date or text amending
17 that because they are debating whether that's the way
18 they want to go, or if they want to just scrap the
19 whole thing.

20 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, Armando. Your
21 information may be later than mine. The last I heard
22 from Denzil at our last BCAC meeting, Jim, was that

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1 the lawyers at DCRA had decided that, because the
2 supplement had been repealed, that the requirements
3 did not exist. But he wasn't willing to state that as
4 a 100-percent fact, it's just a 90-percent feeling.
5 And we've been waiting now for a month to understand
6 where that issue is heading. And if we hear
7 something, we will certainly announce it to this
8 group.

9 Item number C is each subcommittee's
10 review of the 2003 code amendment for typos and other
11 small corrections that we felt, as a group, should be
12 done before the building code is republished. I'm
13 very happy to report the fact that Fire and Life
14 Safety has looked at this again and has a little, one
15 or two small things to add to it, which can happen
16 instantaneously. And the great news is that Armando
17 Lourenco and his office have made the time to go
18 through Chapter One of the Building Code and sent to
19 me, as I mentioned in a surprise to several of you, at
20 2:00 this morning, the proposed revisions. So these
21 are going to Sara Bardin in Jerrily's office for
22 compiling it in a document, and we will get that over

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1 to Denzil's office as quickly as we can.

2 Armando, did your review include reviewing
3 the Chapter One of the Fire Code, or do we need to
4 look at that? I don't mean to add --

5 MR. LOURENCO: Judging from the 90-some
6 items I found on the other chapter, we probably
7 should.

8 MR. FETTERMAN: Yes. I was disappointed
9 to find ten in construction and to see that you came
10 up with 90, many of which, many of your revisions
11 helped to clarify and bring it back to what we had
12 passed.

13 MR. LOURENCO: One of the reasons why I
14 found 90 was because that chapter was thoroughly
15 worked over by Corporation Counsel, as usual, because
16 it has administrative issues. It's not surprising.

17 MR. FETTERMAN: Well, again, Armando,
18 thank you very much for finishing the building code
19 work. Did anyone have anything to add to that item?

20 Item D. I offered this as a suggestion to
21 the committee. It comes from a couple of people on
22 the Fire and Life Safety Subcommittee that met at its

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1 first regular meeting last week, and the suggestion is
2 that would it be helpful to have a seminar or
3 presentation to enable the opposing issues regarding
4 the desirability of sprinkling single-family dwellings
5 be a subject of one of these meetings, perhaps our
6 September meeting.

7 As many of you recall, we heard a very
8 thoughtful presentation earlier at a regular meeting
9 that John Stovall helped to arrange by a person who
10 works in the housing industry and was against
11 sprinklers. And I know there are some in this group
12 that have very strong feelings both ways. And our
13 feeling was that it might, that it would make a lot of
14 sense to either bring that person back and certainly
15 supplement it with a person or persons who could speak
16 thoroughly to the other side of the issue.

17 And we did not get a chance to discuss
18 this at our Executive Committee meeting, and so I
19 thought I would bring it to the whole group and see if
20 there was a feeling one way or the other.

21 MR. LOURENCO: Armando Lourenco. Being
22 one of those that has strong feelings about this, I

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1 think it's probably appropriate for Byron to establish
2 a working group, as provided for in the bylaws, to go
3 over this in as a dispassionate way as we can because
4 I think this is a very serious matter that has very
5 specific underlying data that's available that can be
6 brought up to the attention of the committee. I think
7 it would be better to do it that way because it would
8 not take as much time of the full committee as having
9 that discussion going over on the full committee. And
10 that way conclusions, obviously, opinions from both
11 sides could be summarized and brought to the
12 committee. I think that would be a better way of
13 using the time of the committee.

14 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Can you pass
15 the microphone behind you? Howard raised his hand
16 next.

17 MR. EBENSTEIN: Howard Ebenstein, DC
18 Energy Office. I'm thinking that it would be
19 appropriate because the full committee heard the
20 presentation from, I guess, the anti-sprinkler side,
21 as it were. And I think maybe Armando's suggestion is
22 a good one. Both things could go on, but I think it

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1 would just provide, you know, some balance to the full
2 committee. And then if Byron does create the working
3 group, we can hear what they have to say. But I just
4 think it will provide a little more balance at this
5 time. I don't really -? I guess one question I have,
6 is this committee going to be expected to vote on this
7 issue in the future, the full Building Code Advisory
8 Committee?

9 MR. FETTERMAN: We have been asked by
10 Denzil to consider a number of emergency amendments,
11 which were discussed at our last meeting, our last
12 full committee meeting. And Denzil had committed to
13 get us the list of those, as well as the text of the
14 amendments, to each of us, and that has not yet
15 happened. When I asked Denzil that question, the
16 answer is he very much wants our input. John Stovall
17 asked whether, this was so politically charged, was
18 our input going to be helpful or -? help me here.
19 Yes, is this a political hot potato, or is this
20 something that we can, by spending our volunteer time
21 on it, contribute to city policy? And Denzil's strong
22 feeling was that they want our input.

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1 MR. EBENSTEIN: Right. Well, I sense that
2 it's also, you know, to some extent, a political
3 issue. And I'm just feeling down the road that it
4 would be appropriate, it would be right to be able to
5 say that the full committee got presentations from
6 both sides, if nothing else just to cover the bases
7 here.

8 MR. FETTERMAN: And I think our ?- thank
9 you. And I think our hope was to make sure that Denzil
10 and those in our office, his superiors that are
11 feeling the heat on this, no pun intended, are able to
12 come, as well as people from the city council, who
13 have strong feelings, one or another. We, you know,
14 very much want to open this up and bring in people who
15 have very strong feelings on both sides of the issue
16 and make sure that the decision makers for the city
17 have the opportunity to be at this presentation.

18 MR. EBENSTEIN: Well, my only thought
19 about that is that they didn't have an opportunity to
20 sit in on the previous presentation, so it might not
21 be balanced if they only hear, you know, the second
22 side of the issue. I think we need to be careful to

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1 treat both sides equally here. So that's my thought
2 on that.

3 MR. FETTERMAN: I think that's a great
4 point, and I think what Byron was intending was to
5 treat both sides equally at the meeting. So for some
6 of us who had heard the earlier presentation, there
7 would be some repeat. But perhaps the presentations
8 could be made a little more succinct and meaty, so
9 this did not become, you know, a four-hour event. But
10 I leave it up to Byron and the others that feel
11 strongly about this to gather the right people
12 together and to tell us how long it takes to
13 effectively present both sides.

14 MR. EBENSTEIN: So at this presentation
15 you're envisioning, where there would be council
16 members and other people, would both sides of the
17 issue be presented, or would just the remaining side
18 be presented?

19 MR. FETTERMAN: Both sides.

20 MR. EBENSTEIN: Okay, all right. I didn't
21 understand.

22 MR. FETTERMAN: It's probably me.

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1 MR. EBENSTEIN: Okay, thank you.

2 MR. BLACK: Byron Black. I guess I would
3 disagree with Armando on this one. I think that this
4 summer, probably up through September, since it's
5 probably unlikely we're going to get the 2003 codes
6 before then, that this may give us a rare opportunity
7 where we would have the time to get a full committee
8 that's pretty well organized together to hear some of
9 this because it does cross a lot of subcommittee
10 lines, and I think most, not most but probably a great
11 number of the subcommittees are affected by this to
12 some degree. Our intention was to have probably a
13 repeat of that previous presentation, which was anti-
14 sprinkler, to try to get somebody who was
15 representative of sprinklers. Another one is perhaps
16 getting fire marshals from Prince George's County or
17 Montgomery County to see what their experience has
18 been and to try to gather as much statistical data we
19 can as to this kind of fires or how many deaths would
20 have been caused by not having the sprinklers or just
21 is there any numerical data that you can lend weight
22 to to make a decision on it.

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1 MR. FETTERMAN: And I think we also talked
2 about what I thought was a wonderful idea, and you've
3 said it, and I'll elaborate a little. In querying the
4 other, you know, large northeastern cities to see how
5 this issue is being handled in similar-sized and
6 larger-sized cities.

7 MR. BLACK: Right. And I think what I
8 would also recommend is we try to make this meeting as
9 open as possible, to invite as many people from the
10 city and other interested parties, because I think it
11 is the result of the working session. There's going
12 to be a lot of people that are very knowledgeable. As
13 soon as that working committee reaches a decision,
14 they're going to say, "Well, what about this?" or,
15 "What about that?" and it's going to open the whole
16 thing up. So I think if we can get everybody that's
17 concerned together all at one time and then try to use
18 that as a basis for reaching a consensus.

19 MR. FETTERMAN: Howard behind you has
20 another comment.

21 MR. EBENSTEIN: Yes. I think another
22 interested party would be the insurance industry.

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1 That certainly affects the long-term, you know, costs
2 and could reduce insurance rates. I don't know. But
3 maybe this should be more like a panel, a special, it
4 doesn't have to be a special session of the Building
5 Code Advisory Committee. It could be on a regularly-
6 scheduled time, but it would be a different format,
7 and perhaps we can have a panel here. We've got room
8 for five panelists up in the front there, and folks
9 can just present their views on it and limit them to,
10 you know, whatever, 15 minutes a piece or something.

11 MR. FETTERMAN: And that would be one of
12 the calmer issues that usually happens. Byron, could
13 I ask, it sounds like the general feeling is very
14 positive, and if I could ask you to continue with the
15 lead on this and working with people who have other
16 strong feelings, like Armando, to put this together.

17 MR. BLACK: I'd be glad to.

18 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. The last item
19 under administrative matters, attached to your agenda
20 are proposed bylaws, and what we have done is to take
21 the 1996 bylaws, which we are currently working under,
22 and to show, either by underlining or cross-throughs,

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1 proposed changes or deletions. And I ask you to look
2 at those over the next month for questions at our July
3 meeting and voting at our July meeting. Obviously, if
4 anyone has any questions today, we'd be happy to
5 entertain them, but this is very much in the spirit in
6 which we have been accepting changes to the building
7 code. We introduce them at one meeting, and then they
8 are discussed and voted on at a subsequent meeting.

9 Would anyone like to make any comments
10 about these now? My recommendation would be let's
11 make this a subject of our July meeting. Thank you.

12 Subcommittee reports. Samantha for
13 Accessibility. I know you people have been meeting.
14 Thank you very much.

15 MS. MCASKILL: Samantha McAskill, the
16 Accessibility Subcommittee. We met June 4th. In the
17 absence of code books, we did have other things that
18 we discussed. The consideration of automatic door,
19 and we talked by phone with an industry representative
20 about how much they cost, the difficulty of
21 retrofitting in existing the buildings, the ease of
22 use, maintenance, those kinds of things. And based on

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1 that information, the subcommittee is going to
2 continue investigating the possibility of requiring a
3 certain number of automatic or power door-openers in
4 very specific types of facilities using ANSI and ADAG
5 requirements as the guidelines, as far as the type of
6 equipment to be considered acceptable.

7 The other thing is that the ANSI is on the
8 street. It's been published, the 2003 ANSI, so we are
9 considering using the 2003 ANSI as part of the new
10 code cycle instead of the '98 ANSI, which is currently
11 referenced in the 2003 IDC. But we are holding off on
12 considering that until the new ADAG is published,
13 which we understand will happen in July. So we are
14 going to do a review both of the new ADAG and new ANSI
15 at the same time to see if it would be appropriate for
16 us to consider using the 2003 ANSI.

17 And that really is the bulk of the other
18 things that we considered to date, in the absence of
19 code books.

20 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, Samantha.
21 Construction Subcommittee is me, and I have no report.
22 We have not met. Electrical is next. It's Frank

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1 Becker. I have spoken with Frank a couple times this
2 week, and he is unable to be with us today. But as
3 you see under the bullet in Item number C, on the
4 second page, BCAC did receive a one-line electrical
5 diagram in April. And thanks to the work of several
6 people, including Scott Vandame and Armando, some
7 concerns about it were pointed out, and it appears to
8 be an item that Frank was asked to review again to
9 decide whether he wishes this to be an emergency
10 amendment. But it's been clarified that it is not one
11 of the typos or correction amendments that we are
12 presently trying to get to BLRA.

13 Jim, do you have anything to report for
14 elevators?

15 MR. LOWERY: Good morning. I'm Jim
16 Lowery, co-chairman of the Elevator Subcommittee. The
17 subcommittee met on June 2nd at 10:00 a.m., and it was
18 attended by ten members to accept Don Rosenberger and
19 Dick Shaffer's report on the most important items that
20 should be addressed at the District of Columbia in the
21 A-17.3 codes. It was decided that the subcommittee
22 would go back and get information ready for the next

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1 BCAC committee meeting.

2 The subcommittee decided that an e-mail
3 would be sent to Jerrily Kress requesting that the
4 omitted portion of the A-17.3 from the register be put
5 back on the agenda at the next BCAC meeting held on
6 the 14th of July. The subcommittee voted that a letter
7 be sent to Denzil Noble would be re-sent to Jerrily
8 Kress, John Drand, and Sidney Lester.

9 The next meeting will be held July 7th at
10 10:00 a.m. at the IUEC Local 10 union hall. Thank
11 you.

12 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you, Jim. I have a
13 copy of the letter that, with regard to the
14 applicability of the July date for elevator recall,
15 but I did not get a copy of the other one. And I know
16 that Sharon has been trying to send to me the e-mails
17 while Jerrily is out. Can you re-send that to her,
18 please? Because we don't have that letter asking
19 about that the 17.3 be restored.

20 MR. LOWERY: Okay. We'll make sure that
21 gets sent over here then.

22 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. And our next

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1 BCAC meeting is the 21st of July, I think. It's the
2 third Wednesday.

3 MR. LOWERY: Very good. We'll make sure
4 we're at the right one.

5 MR. LOURENCO: I have two questions.
6 First, the question on, I heard you say that you were
7 considering A-17.3, which, to my knowledge, is not in
8 the list of codes of standards for adoption either in
9 the 2003 or 2005. I don't understand why the
10 subcommittee is dealing with a standard or a code
11 that's not in the list of codes to be adopted. That
12 decision needs to come from the Executive Committee. I
13 still don't understand why you keep on doing work on
14 something that the Executive Committee didn't direct
15 you to go in that direction.

16 MR. LOWERY: Well, actually, we were,
17 early on, asked to look into it, and the problem is
18 with this A-17.3, as some of you may or may not know,
19 what it deals with is restrictive devices and things
20 like that that, and you guys probably heard about
21 lately a person was just killed recently on an
22 elevator trying to get out of an elevator that she was

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1 trapped in, instead of waiting for somebody, an
2 elevator mechanic to come get her out. That wouldn't
3 have happened if A-17.3 was in vote. It's because it
4 does not have a restrictive device, which means that
5 any person in an elevator can open that door up. Very
6 simple, not very expensive, and it saves lives. It
7 was in the DCR-12 up until recently, where it was
8 taken out. Now the only time that you can have that
9 done to an elevator is if you're doing renovations to
10 it, and that's why we're looking into it, and we're
11 just going to give the recommendation to the
12 committee.

13 MR. FETTERMAN: Yes. Jim and Armando, I
14 believe at our last meeting we asked the elevator work
15 on existing elevators to be coordinated with Joan
16 Stogis, Existing Structures Committee, and that we
17 were trying to get her to take, Existing Structures to
18 take the lead on all these items. So I want to make
19 sure that these recommendations go to her group, and I
20 know she is out of town at the moment, too, and I know
21 there's also some concerns with regard to Fire and
22 Life Safety because we very much want to do what is

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1 right for the city, and we want to do it as a
2 coordinated effort.

3 MR. LOWERY: Yes, exactly. Joan, nor
4 myself, was at the last subcommittee meeting, I must
5 say. I wasn't at that meeting either. I was just
6 reading off the minutes of what they had met. Just
7 for the record, that's the first one I've missed.

8 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Did you have
9 another question, Armando? Don't go away.

10 MR. LOURENCO: Thanks. I understand your
11 point. I just want to make sure that the committee
12 works the way it's supposed to and won't run off on a
13 tangent, grabbing other codes and confusing the
14 picture, which leads me to my next question to
15 Samantha. Are we going to have the opportunity to
16 discuss that in the Executive Committee before going
17 into the 2003 ANSI 17.1 and before going into the
18 2003? The Executive Committee is going to look at
19 that before you embark on that?

20 MS. MCASKILL: Well, we're going to look
21 at it again before we embark on it so we have more ?-

22 MR. LOURENCO: Obviously, we need your

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1 input at the Executive Committee. Okay.

2 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Thank you
3 both. Energy?

4 MR. EBENSTEIN: Energy has not met for the
5 2003 package, and we don't expect to meet until we get
6 the code books. And also, for the record, my
7 intention is, from what I know about these codes, is
8 to have the 2003 energy codes adopted without
9 amendment.

10 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Joan, as the
11 chair of Existing Structures, is out of town. Is
12 there anyone from that subcommittee that can report?
13 Okay. And I know that Collin is working with Joan.
14 Fire and Life Safety is next, Byron.

15 MR. BLACK: Byron Black, Fire and Life
16 Safety. We held our regular meeting last Thursday,
17 and we might add that on this list in the future.
18 It's the Thursday before the full committee meeting at
19 1025 Connecticut Avenue.

20 A number of things were discussed at the
21 meeting. We mentioned earlier the part about the
22 sprinklers, which occupied a good part of the meeting.

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1 One other thing was the corrections. There were two
2 items that had been brought up that needed additional
3 corrections, and I sent a list to Sharon the other
4 day. And just talking to Armando this morning, that
5 fire control requirement, I'm going to be sending you
6 something later today, Sharon, that will be an
7 additional correction to fire command room, and that
8 should be the end of corrections, I would hope.

9 The second item that was discussed, and
10 Mark mentioned a few minutes ago that there may be a
11 package of things that are attempted to be put through
12 as an emergency addition to the code, and this might
13 be one of them. This is something that came up in IBC
14 that has two paragraphs that, when they're both read
15 together, they contradict each other, and the end
16 result is an office building design could be affected
17 quite drastically from what it's been over, as long as
18 I can remember, where, basically, two stairs, one goes
19 directly to the outside, and the other one discharges
20 through the lobby. This interpretation, which we
21 first got caught on it in Montgomery County, would
22 mean that you could not do that. This was something

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1 that our people in the office on code review missed
2 it. Montgomery County missed it. And then when they
3 got down to when they were reviewing plans for one of
4 the tenants going into the building, somebody came up
5 with this. And so far, nobody's ever been able to say
6 that his interpretation is wrong. So it's something
7 that we're hoping that would be corrected at the
8 national level over the period of the next couple of
9 years.

10 But in the meantime, it would seem to me
11 there's two possibilities that we could try to make
12 the correction in the District. One is to get through
13 an emergency package that would contain the correction
14 to this. The other one would be to have the Building
15 Department make an administrative interpretation that
16 would produce the same result.

17 So I think what I want to do is to get our
18 subcommittee to get together and come up with a draft
19 to be part of this potential package of emergency
20 items to be covered. I believe that covers all of the
21 things that we discussed at Fire and Life Safety.

22 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Mechanical,

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1 George Papadopolous. This is another bit of good
2 news. He continues to recover well from his horrible
3 automobile accident that he had last December and has
4 been seen in the office on a cane, which is amazing
5 news because he has been in a wheelchair up until
6 about three weeks ago. So we're hoping that his
7 health continues to improve and he is able to be part
8 of our regular group.

9 Mike Herdeman e-mailed me, and he is out
10 of town and has nothing to report. Plumbing and Mr.
11 Shabelski is next. Whose got the microphone? Armando
12 does, or Jim. Oh, I'm sorry. We did that on purpose.
13 I'm sorry.

14 MR. SHABELSKI: How's that? Okay. Well,
15 believe it or not, the Plumbing Committee has met
16 twice, once in May and once in June. We meet the
17 first Thursday of the month at 941 North Capital
18 Street on the second floor. We have five members. We
19 meet at 10:00 on that first Thursday, and anyone who
20 wants to join could send me an e-mail. We discussed
21 numerous issues. I do have the plumbing code because
22 I went ahead and bought everything, and we've been

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1 looking at some of the changes that are in there.

2 But in any case, Byron brought up an issue
3 about plumbing fixtures for office buildings, and
4 somehow that didn't get on and get approved during the
5 last cycle. But what I found is that it is already in
6 the 2003 code, so, if we don't rush it, it's going to
7 be there if we go ahead and approve that. It looks
8 like they have all the building requirements that were
9 in the Virginia code that's in there.

10 And DC WASA is, we have a consultant on
11 board looking at lead issues, particularly evaluating
12 the California code and the no-lead concept. That's
13 all I have to report.

14 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you very much.
15 Armando on Issues and Policies. Again, my apologies
16 for skipping over this.

17 MR. LOURENCO: That's okay. Did you get
18 property maintenance?

19 MR. FETTERMAN: I did.

20 MR. LOURENCO: Issues and Policies. Yes,
21 we met also in May and June. We meet right here on
22 the first Wednesday of each month, 10:00. At the last

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1 meeting, we ended up dealing only with one item, the
2 interesting subject of the bylaws that you have with
3 you now for discussion in July, which pretty much what
4 you have in front of you is what came out of the
5 subcommittee, after being picked apart by Howard at
6 the last Executive Committee meeting.

7 We don't have anything else to report. We
8 hope to be able to start going through some of the
9 administrative things for the new code at this next
10 meeting in July, and we hope someone will attend. At
11 the last meeting, there were, yes, David Bardin, Mark
12 Fetterman, Shaun Pharr, myself, and Jerrily Kress as
13 the chair of the committee attended it, so we hope to
14 have the same amount of people at least.

15 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. May I ask one
16 other question as an acting vice chair prerogative? I
17 put a bullet under your group because I noticed, in
18 reviewing another project, that we continued in
19 Chapter One of the building code that 1869 Board of
20 Aldermans three-inch high letters. But in Byron's
21 fire code, we said that lettering on existing
22 buildings more than 25 feet away from the street has

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1 to be at least four inches. And this was one of the
2 items that I had reported as part of my review of the
3 Construction Subcommittee, but I hadn't gotten any
4 feedback on that, and beg the full committee's
5 indulgence, but would like to get your feeling on how
6 we should deal with that issue.

7 MR. LOURENCO: I believe the act of the
8 Board of Alderman is a law.

9 MR. FETTERMAN: And that was how I had ?-

10 MR. LOURENCO: The second thing is I don't
11 think it's restricted to three inches. It says it's
12 got to be at least three inches.

13 MR. FETTERMAN: Right.

14 MR. LOURENCO: So if there's another
15 portion of the code that says, "Well, in certain
16 conditions, you've got to go four inches," or whatever
17 it is --

18 MR. FETTERMAN: But that's only in
19 existing ?-

20 MR. LOURENCO: I don't think they
21 conflict.

22 MR. FETTERMAN: Okay.

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1 MR. LOURENCO: They compliment themselves.
2 I will have to go back and look at the actual ?-

3 MR. FETTERMAN: Well, I'd like to go over
4 that with you. It seems to me it's unfortunate if a
5 new building owner has to have at least three-inch
6 high letters, but if I have an existing building, I'm,
7 you know, required to have four-inch high letters.

8 MR. BLACK: Byron Black. My recollection,
9 when we covered this, and we were not taking into
10 account the Alderman of 1869 or whatever, but BOCA
11 requires four-inch letters. We felt that in
12 residential areas, that's excessive for a building
13 that's very close to the curb line, so our intention
14 was that basic rule is four-inch high lettering.
15 However, if the building face is less than 25 feet
16 from the curb line, then three-inch lettering would be
17 permissible.

18 MR. FETTERMAN: Right. It's just that it
19 conflicts with this DC law.

20 MR. LOURENCO: I'm not sure it conflicts.
21 I think if you put four inches, it meets the act, if
22 you put three inches, it meets the act. And they

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1 both, based on the 25 feet distance, meet the code.
2 So I don't think it has a conflict. It's a
3 discrepancy in the number, but I think the way the
4 requirements are set up, it works without changing.

5 MR. FETTERMAN: Okay. Well, I don't, I'll
6 discuss it with you later. I wouldn't want to take
7 the committee's time further. Thank you for your
8 patience. Residential?

9 MR. STOVALL: John Stovall, Residential.
10 We met second Tuesday of this month. We organized our
11 efforts for dealing with new amendments. We plan to
12 meet on July 6th, would be our next regular meeting,
13 and devote that meeting to beginning the amendments
14 for the 2003 IBC. I'm going to be on vacation at our
15 next meeting, so I'll entrust everything to this able
16 committee. Unfortunately, Miles will not be present
17 then either. If we have any issues which we need to
18 discuss, we'll bring them to Mark's attention before
19 the meeting. And we are open to the public. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you. Howard,
22 Structural. He's right behind you, John.

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1 MR. GIBBS: Morning. Structural
2 Subcommittee has not yet met, primarily due to lack of
3 codes. But I don't anticipate a real long effort in
4 getting our stuff together. We have very few
5 amendments, and it will pretty much relate to things
6 that are longstanding in the code and haven't been ?-
7 the code part hasn't changed, so I expect that the
8 need for our amendments will still be there, and we
9 should be able to wrap that up fairly quickly once we
10 get the votes.

11 MR. FETTERMAN: Thank you very much. That
12 concludes our subcommittee reports. Any other items
13 that anyone would like to bring before the committee?
14 Seeing none, our next meeting is July 21st at 10:00 in
15 this room. And, traditionally, we do not meet in
16 August. So thank you very much.

17 (Whereupon, the foregoing matter was
18 concluded at 11:06 a.m.)

19
20
21